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State Superintendent

DPI VISTA Monthly

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They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.
Andy Warhol



Jane Grinde
Program Director
Stephanie Hogue
VISTA Leader
Megan O'Connell
DPI VISTA

Restarting the VISTA Monthly

Welcome

Welcome to the reincarnation of the VISTA Newsletter! After a year long hiatus, it is finally back and ready to serve its VISTAs and their supervisors. We hope that you find this newsletter to be informative, amusing, and useful for you and your projects. We know you're busy and bogged down, but we hope you see reading this more as a time to relax and rekindle with your other VISTAs and less like one more item on your list of things to get through. We promise not to be boring! After all, a good deal of the newsletter will come from you, and we know you have lots of interesting things to add. Speaking of your involvement, we hope that everyone can contribute at least one article or tip for the newsletter. This means supervisors too! We greatly value your commitment to the VISTA program and know that this is new for you as well, so we hope you can share as you learn also.

As you begin to get settled into your sites (and we hope you are), now is the perfect time to look around you and gather ideas for the coming year. And this newsletter can be one of the first stops you make to collect relevant information. We plan to weigh you down with grant opportunities, useful books (and reviews of several since you may lack the time to read them all), websites, and other resources. Such resources include a section, *Successful Strategies*, where you mail us your strategies and we publish them for other VISTAs and supervisors to use.

We've also developed several sections devoted to personal wealth such as a monthly recipe, money saving tips, birthdays, contact information, seasonal activities, and interviews.

Every month two VISTAs will interview each other and submit their interview to the newsletter for everyone to learn more about individual VISTAs. The tentative schedule for interviews can be seen below. Don't worry; we'll email you reminders when your month is near!

-Stephanie Hogue and Megan O'Connell

Resources

Box Tops for Education

<https://www.bboxtops4education.com/reg/default.aspx?sid=35>

-A free program used to earn money for you school. Great to start if your school doesn't participate already.

Money Saving Website

<http://www.betterbudgeting.com/>

-Full of articles on way to save money, recipes, and links to budget tips as well

Wisconsin Intergenerational Network (WIN)

www.wi-win.org

Wisconsin Intergenerational Network (WIN) is a statewide network of organizations and individuals who believe that interaction and cooperation among generations contribute to the health and well-being of individuals and society.

Did You Know?

*Finland placed first in literacy by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Their students don't start learning to read until the age of 7! And preschool for 6 year olds is optional. The students also get a 15 minute break after every 45 minute lesson. During this break they can run around and engage in art and music projects. American students placed in the middle. (*Rethinking Schools* Vol. 19, N. 3)

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Grant Writing Opportunities

Grant Writing

Below I've listed the URL and name of several grant opportunities you may want to look into if you should ever come across extra time. Some are available to community non-profits only but can benefit partnering schools.

Scholastic Books

<http://www.scholastic.com/aboutscholastic/community/programs/bookgrants.htm>

This grant is not given to individual schools, but districts or programs may apply

ExploraVision

http://www.exploravision.org/2003/wie_index.html

Science and technology project for students in grades K-12.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

<http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/guidelines.html>

Brinker International

http://www.brinker.com/contact/charitable_requests.asp

Irvin Andrew Porter Foundation

<http://www.iapfoundation.org/>

Toshiba America Foundation

<http://www.toshiba.com/taf/apply.html>

Grant money for students' project materials in innovative math and science teaching curriculum.

Verizon Foundation

<http://foundation.verizon.com/048008.shtml>

Verizon works with schools and has three different grant opportunities

Wal-Mart Foundation

http://www.walmartfoundation.org/wmstore/goodworks/scripts/WhatWeFund.jsp?BV_SessionID=@@@1546589507.1126711427@@@&BV_EngineID=cccdaddfigldeifcfcfkjdgoodglg.0&oid=-10267&coid=-10267

Some of our AmeriCorps Members have used Wal-Mart as a source of books to give away to students. They also contribute money to schools where their employees volunteer. Contact your local Wal-Mart for more information.

Recipe of the Month

Spinach and Eggplant Lasagna

1 medium eggplant

2 15 oz. cans diced tomatoes

1 ½ tsp. basil (divided)

½ med. onion, minced

1 c. Parmesan (divided)

15 oz. ricotta

1 large egg

2 c. mozzarella

1 10 oz. package frozen, chopped spinach
(thawed and squeezed)

Basil and oregano to taste, about ½ tsp each

Preheat oven to 350. Slice the eggplant lengthwise, approximately ¼ inch thick and broil on a greased tray until brown on one side. While the eggplant is cooking, simmer the tomatoes with 1 tsp. and the minced onions on low. In a roomy bowl, mix together ½ c. Parmesan cheese, ricotta, egg and ½ tsp. basil and roughly divide into three parts. Assemble the lasagna in a 9x13 pan starting with ¼ of the tomato sauce then 1/3 of the eggplant and 1/3 of the ricotta mixture. Use the rest of the eggplant, the spinach and 1/3 of the mozzarella for the next layer. Next, top with rest of ricotta mixture, remaining tomato sauce, basil and oregano. The final layer is the remaining Parmesan and the rest of the mozzarella. Bake uncovered for 30-40 min. Cool for 10 min and then cut and serve!

Book List:

A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Ruby K. Payne

The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke by Suze Orman

There is no love
sincerer than the
love of food.
-George Bernard
Shaw

Money Saving Tip of the Month

Clean With Vinegar

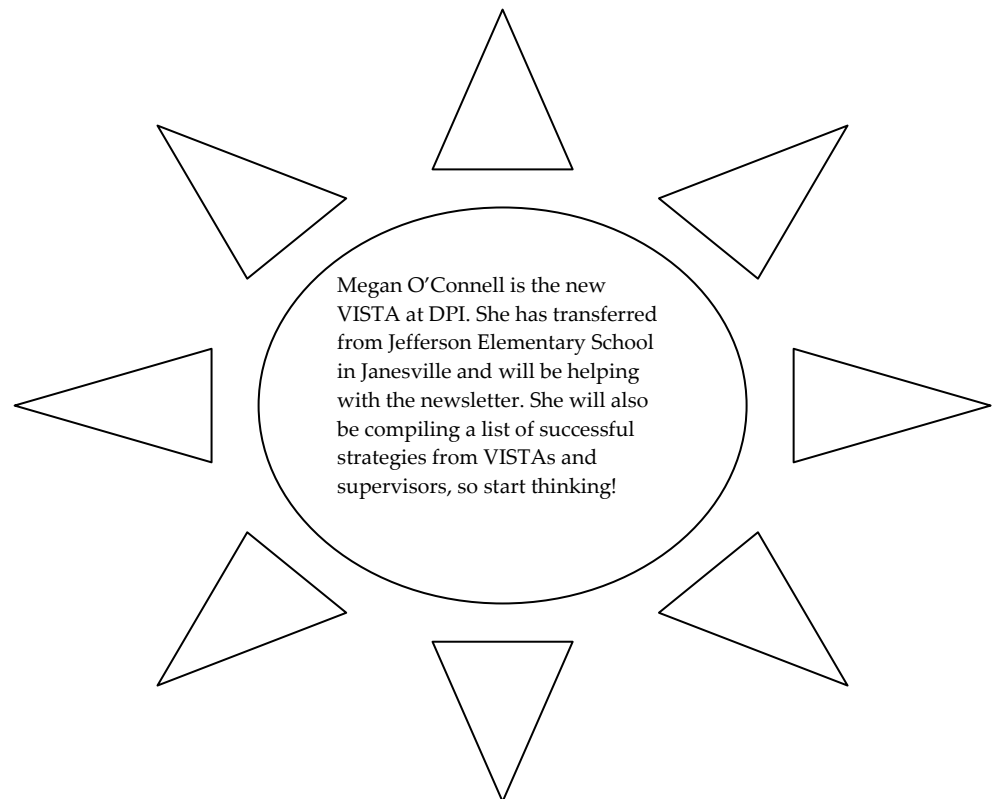
1. A quarter c. in a quart (4c.) makes a good window cleaner. Dry with newspaper.
2. On heavily tarnished copper or copper alloy, use a past made of salt and vinegar.
3. Use white vinegar mixed with water to rinse dishes after washing them to take the soap off and leave them squeaky clean. This also takes soap residue off hands.
4. Add ½ c. vinegar to gallon of water to keep your vinyl no wax floors clean and shining.
5. Use as a carpet spot and stain remover: Take a spray bottle and fill with one part white vinegar to seven parts water. Take a second spray bottle and fill with one part white, non sudsy ammonia and seven parts water. Saturate stain with vinegar solution. Let sit for few minutes and blot thoroughly with a clean, white cloth. Then go over the area with the ammonia solution, let sit and blot again. Repeat until stain is gone.
6. Pour ¼ c. vinegar with dish soap and hot water. This will help clean Corningware dishes, stainless steel pots and pans, oven and stove top. It's a great grease remover.
7. Pour ¼ c. vinegar into your dishwasher rinse cycle for streak free, sparkling dishes.
8. Remove water stains from leather by rubbing with a cloth dipped in a vinegar and water solution.
9. If you do dishes by hand, glasses sometimes smell sour. Rinse these with vinegar to remove odor.
10. Boil 1 c. water with 2 tblsp. of vinegar to rid kitchen of odors, like burnt food.

Lesson: Vinegar is useful! Don't buy tons of cleaning products that are not only expensive, but bad for the environment!

Interview Schedule

October:	<i>Nina Padaguan and Alice Baldini</i>
November:	<i>Lorrie Ryczek and Shoshannah Pass</i>
December:	<i>Emily Johnson and Jennifer Kutska</i>
January:	<i>Edwina Matthews and Lisa Fusco</i>
February:	<i>Janice Welsh and Kelly Ranzen</i>
March:	<i>Morgana Davis and Kristin Danielson</i>
April:	<i>David Curtis and Mary Gutierrez</i>
May:	<i>Megan O'Connell and Julie McGonigal</i>
June:	<i>Karen Collins and Tamilyn Frey</i>
July:	<i>Kathryn Zboralski and Krista Larson</i>

**If anyone needs to make a change to the schedule, please email Megan O'Connell at: Megan.O'connell@dpi.state.wi.us as soon as possible.*



What's Going On?

Beer and Cheese Tasting Event Oct. 1, 2005

<http://www.turnerhallofmonroe.org/beer&cheese.html>

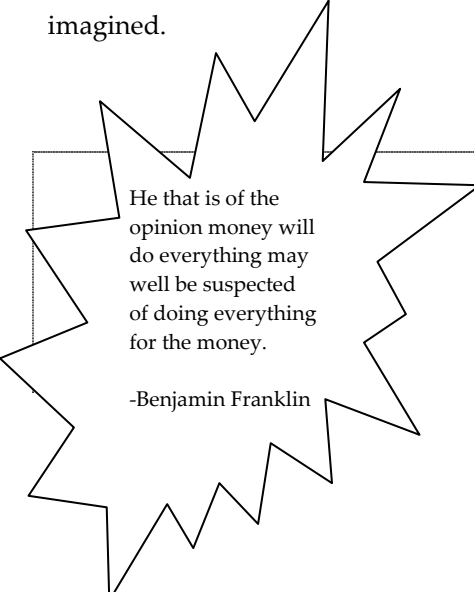
Book Review for Suze Orman's
*Money Book for the Young, Fabulous
& Broke*

For all of us who are more or less money ignorant, crunched for time and short on attention, this is the book to read. From learning how (and why) to consolidate and reduce debt to why Roth IRAs are the place for our money to be, this book is chock of full of useful information.

Done in Q&A style for a more interesting (and shorter) read, the book is divided into sections so one can easily pick and choose the topics that interest him. The book is also full of bold print, making a full page of heavy information a rarity.

Most importantly, Orman makes financial mumbo jumbo easy to understand and digest. With her guidance, the financial world no longer seems so complex and intangible. In fact, one might become so knowledgeable that he thinks of transferring to the banking world. But please don't, we love you here at AmeriCorps*VISTA.

So pick up the book and learn some painless tips to help you tackle the money world. Someday we will have some to invest and with this book we'll be on that road sooner than we would have imagined.



He that is of the
opinion money will
do everything may
well be suspected
of doing everything
for the money.

-Benjamin Franklin

Opportunity a Knockin'

This is a posting from VISTA NET listserv that I found. I hope it can be of use!

As a new school year gets underway, is your VISTA project building capacity for training tutors? The CNCS/LEARNs Web-Based Tutor Training helps prepare volunteers to provide tutoring and homework help.

Developed by the LEARNs project and funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Web-Based Tutor Training introduces effective tutoring strategies. Users interact with virtual tutors and children engaged in a range of activities that integrate a variety of skills and learning styles. The Web-based training also includes an array of downloadable support materials designed to help tutors in their important work with children.

The LEARNs partners invite you to participate in one of our technical assistance calls to learn more about the Web-Based Tutor Training and share ideas for using it to support tutors. Calls are no longer than one hour and will be held at the following dates/times:

Thursday, September 22 @ 9:00PST/12:00EST

Tuesday, September 27 @ 11:00PST/2:00EST

If you would like to participate in a call, please send the information below to martinn@nwrel.org:

First and Last Name

Project/Organization Name

Stream of Service

E-mail Address

Phone Number

Preferred Call Date/Time

LEARNs is a partnership of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and the Bank Street College of Education. We are funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service to provide training and technical assistance to projects focused on tutoring, mentoring, literacy, and out-of-school time.